December 19, 1991

Millbury, Mass.

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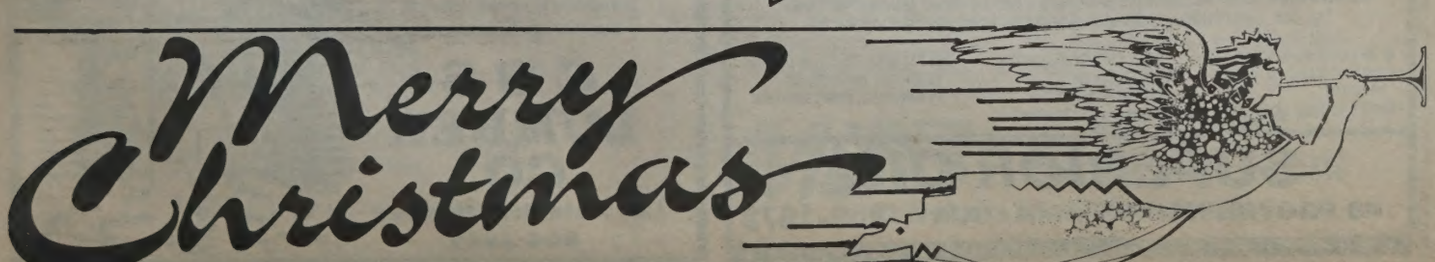

THE MILLBURY-SUTTON CHRONICLE

117 Elm Street, Millbury, MA 01527
Tel: 865-1645

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EDITORIAL

The Perfect Gift

Whenever I try to recall what Christmas means to me, I recall, not the Christmases when my children were very young, but those Christmases when I was a child. It was not the sound of reindeer on the roof that awakened us on Christmas morning, but the aromas coming from the kitchen where my mother had been since the wee hours of the morning preparing the holiday meal.

I also recall one particular gift that I received for one of those childhood Christmases, a lighted wooden manger, nothing fancy, with plastic figures of the Holy Family and a few extras thrown in for effect. When you turned the crank on the side, a tinny "Silent Night" broke through the silence.

That Christmas night, I lay on the floor, plugged in the light in the darkened room, turned the crank, and stared at the figures for what seemed like hours as my mind wandered and then returned to the scene before me. To this day, I can recall the warm feeling that came over me as I stared at the figures and thought about the wonderful miracle of the Christ Child's birth. As I looked at the light filtering through the blue night sky framing the outside of the manger, I imagined the difficult journey of Mary and Joseph as they headed toward Bethlehem, not knowing what the future held in store.

Today, I still look at my manger in a darkened room; I still turn the crank to hear "Silent Night;" and I still feel that warm glow that surrounded me as a child when I do. And even in these harsh economic times, I am reminded, for a brief moment, that Christmas is not gifts piled high under the tree; Christmas is not parties, family gatherings, or even giving of ourselves once a year to those less fortunate. Christmas is a glowing ember that lies deep down inside each and every one of us and is rekindled throughout the year. A warm feeling that reminds us every so often that there is good in the world, that there are caring people, that there is hope for the future.

Christmas is the gift of a miracle; a gift that we at the Chronicle hope will warm each and every one of you on Christmas Day and throughout the New Year.

Thank You...

The residents of the Millbury Congregate Housing at 451 Colonial Drive would like to thank the Cub Scouts of Pack 109, Den 3, for the Christmas wall hanging they made for us. Special thanks to Justin Bennes, Andrew Graves, Andrew Knight, John Murphy, Andrew Raffa, Kevin Whiterell, Shawn Whiterell, Mrs. Graves, and Mrs. Whiterell.

Early Closing

MILLBURY - The Municipal Office Building will close at noon on December 24 and will also be closed the evening of December 31.

Only Bagged Trash at Transfer Station

MILLBURY - Only bagged household trash will be accepted at the Transfer Station until the end of the year to keep within the town's allotted tonnage to Wheelabrator for 1991. The Transfer Station will close at 11:00 a.m. on December 24.

Meeting Cancellation

MILLBURY - Due to the Christmas holiday, the Millbury Planning Board will cancel its regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting of December 23. The next meeting will be held on January 13, 1992 at the Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street.

Christmas Tree Disposal

MILLBURY - Christmas trees may be brought to the Town Highway Garage on Providence Street for disposal from December 26 to January 11. Follow the signs for the proper place to leave them. This is for Christmas trees only; no plastic, trash or any other kind of debris. Anyone found dumping trash of any kind will be subject to a fine.

Trees will not be accepted at the Transfer Station.

Budget Advisory Committee

MILLBURY - The Millbury School Committee is seeking parents and interested residents to participate in the formulation of the 1992-93 school budget. The Committee will begin its budget deliberations the first of the year and would like to invite interested residents to participate in reviewing all school budget requests. Any person interested in serving on the Advisory Committee should contact the Superintendent's office at 865-9501.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

SUTTON - The First Baptist Church, Central Turnpike, will hold its annual Candlelight Communion Service at 7 P.M. Special guests will include The Blackstone Valley Heritage Chorale, the Rev. Lloyd Yeagle, Mrs. Joyce Waltrous, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smith of the Rhode Island Symphony Orchestra. Following the program, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

A Very Merry Christmas!

Please Note

Because of space limitations, several items scheduled for release in today's edittion will appear in future editions, including the Sutton School Committee meeting of December 9 and Classical Night at the Shaw School.

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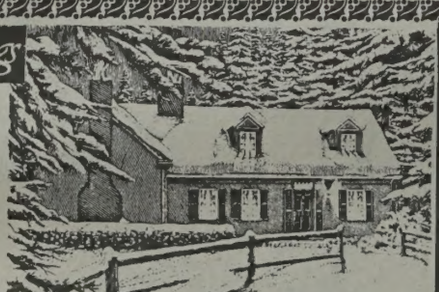

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Millbury Selectmen's Meeting Digest

Leasing Tops Agenda

By Edward J. Cooney

MILLBURY - The December 10 Selectmen's meeting convened at 7:P.M. Chairman Jude Cristo asked Administrative Assistant Earl Chase if the tentatively scheduled meeting with the Massachusetts Coalition of Police representatives who represent the Millbury Police Union would be taking place as scheduled at 8:00 P.M.

Chase replied that the meeting was not going to take place. He said the Union does not plan to reschedule a meeting as they feel they do not want to sit down and bargain with the Selectmen at all. Cristo asked Chase to get a letter from the police union to document that they do not want to sit down with the board.

Cable TV

Chase reported that Cable TV Advisory Committee Chairman Paul DiCicco has indicated that restranding the town would be a 13 month process from design, to ordering of equipment, to installation. "We may not see any work on installation until the latter part of 1992," Chase said.

It was noted that Greater Media can't proceed until a contract is signed. The earliest the Town could sign a contract would be in mid February of 1992. Cristo noted that the 13 months would begin at that time and would be done by March of 1993.

Gauthier noted that the Cable TV Advisory Committee will be holding a Public Hearing, not on the contract, but on cable service and related issues. The hearing will be held January 2 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Center School

Under old business regarding the Center School building and a proposed lease involving YOU Inc., the Board briefly discussed the lease and state law requirements under the Procurement Act that require the Town to publicly seek bids for the use and lease of a public building.

Cristo asked Chase if the bid specs were available tonight, to which Chase replied that they were not.

Cristo said the Board couldn't come to any final agreement until that is done.

Chase agreed, and noted that the Board can't negotiate with anyone until the proposal goes out to bid.

Cristo then asked where this leaves the Board since they can't enter a lease now yet they have a potential vendor. "Can we really get into discussions about these things until we go out to bid first?" he asked.

Chase replied that he thought to do so would confirm the Board's intentions with a known use.

"Okay! Alright!" Cristo said. "Then we could discuss what provisions we want in a lease providing this type of use. Then how would we go out to bid? Put it out as a school?"

"Yes," Chase replied, "for educational purposes, but we may have to refine it better than that."

Cristo then said, "I guess I'm having a hard time, as we're talking about a potential lease in executive sessions in terms of what we would want to see what we want put into that lease. We have some concerns with various things that we got. We want to discuss them with this prospective vendor or any other vendor. How do we do this? Do we do that in open session or in executive session? I guess that's my concern," he said. "There are things I would like to see in the lease, yet if you talk about it in open session you lose bargaining power. Do you know what I'm saying?"

"Yes I do!" Chase replied. "Certainly, at this time, we are working up the potential use of the building. I would think further discussions would have to be in executive session."

Cristo then referred to Chapter 39 of Massachusetts General Laws, section 23B, exception number #6, that allows a governmental body to go into a closed session, "to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if such discussions may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body."

Turn to SELECTMEN on Page 4

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SELECTMEN from Page 3

"I guess it doesn't say you have to have already entered into some kind of an agreement with any specific vendor," Cristo said. "It says lease in general. It is very generic, so I assume we can do it that way. With this thing going out to bid, I want to make sure we are not getting into specific negotiations, because I don't think we can do that until we do go out to bid."

Selectman Roland Lachance moved that the Board advertise for bids. The vote on the motion was 4-0 in favor. The Board then went into executive session with Town Planner Dave Hulseberg.

Upon returning to open session, the selectmen met with YOU, Inc. representatives to discuss issues brought up at two previous meetings, relating to the boiler, the roof, handicap accessibility, cost factors related to rehabilitation of the building, and removal of asbestos in the lower area of the building.

YOU, Inc. Engineer Ted Zota noted that a registered asbestos abatement company would have to be hired. As a result, the estimated cost of $180,000 for renovations will be higher than previously supposed. Once the asbestos is removed, the building could be recertified as an educational facility.

Attorney Susan Black, legal counsel for YOU, Inc. said she spoke with Town Counsel Richard Bowen on an issue relating to Chapter 149, the "Prevailing Wage Statute" for work done on public buildings. She said she and town counsel have different views on the matter.

Chase said Town Counsel indicated that, based on a preliminary review, work done at the Center School would fall under Chapter 149 for improvements on a public building.

Black cited a case where the S.S. Massachusetts, a private structure, was provided funds by the Commonwealth for use by a charitable foundation and the court ruled that Chapter 149 didn't apply.

YOU, Inc. Director Maurice Boisvert said he holds the same view, and emphasized that YOU, Inc. is a private non-profit organization. He said work to be done would actually fit up the building, a tenant fit up for their own needs, and would not necessarily serve the town's long term needs.

Cristo noted that the Town presently has no plans for capital improvements to the building and if it were to stay the way things are now, only minor repairs on a needed basis would be done by the town.

Other issues touched on were: the removal of the underground tanks, which would be handled by the town; the lessee doing annual outside maintenance as needed; and handicap accessibility.

A buy out provision would also be included in the lease that would give YOU, Inc. one year's notice at a pro-rated price to protect the town.

Regarding handicapped accessibility, Boisvert explained that a $20,000 chair lift would be located at the front entrance to assist physically disabled persons to reach the first floor where adequate facilities will be available for their needs. This will meet all barrier requirements under state regulations, he said.

The Board then went on to complete the agenda.

Easements

Lachance raised an issue which he suggested needed review by Town Counsel, regarding a 1975 Town Meeting vote on acquiring easements for water holes for fire safety in five different locations, four of which are in the West Millbury area and one on McCracken Road. He noted that the voters approved the agreements as did the owners of the properties.

Lachance said there is no record of the signed agreements nor recordings at the Registry of Deeds, "but the easements should be valid as there was a vote, and obviously a lot of work went into preparing the articles and descriptions of the easements."

Cristo suggested that Chase research the payment of $1.00 to each of the owners with the town treasurer and check with the Fire Engineers to see if they have any record before going to Town Counsel.

Miscellaneous

- A letter was received from the Army Corps of Engineers, indicating that work on the Rte 90/146/20 Interchange is moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

- Discussions on the Contract Committee for upcoming contract negotiations with municipal employees was deferred until next week when all members will be present.

- A letter from the Millbury Lion's Club for permits for a block party was referred to the Police Chief for a recommendation. Gauthier raised the issue of the Club seeking a permit for the annual parade, and said there may not be any money for police details in the budget.

- A copy of a letter from Town Counsel was received concerning the town's position that permits for outdoor advertising on bill boards should not be issued in order to conform to the Town's by-laws.

- A letter explaining the deferral of teacher's pay indicates that the payback of summer pay deferral will start in 1997 and continue over a period of 15 years. Payment cannot be started before 1997.

- A letter was received from the Planning Board, recalling a vote for the installation of street lights at the Silver Fox subdivision off Riverlin Street. Cristo expressed some surprise that there would be a business and homes built within the same sub-division based on other experiences the town has had.

Clearview Country Club

Gauthier questioned the status of Clearview Country Club's Common Victualer's license.

Chase said it was recommended that the license be signed for renewal purposes but not issued until back taxes have been paid and the issue of the management of the facility is straightened out.

Selectman Gerry Bleau asked if the Club has a license.

Chase said the license was not given to them.

"Did they really have a license," Bleau asked again, to which there was no response.

"Should we revoke it?" asked Cristo.

Chase replied that the owners think they will be paying what they owe in back taxes.

Cristo said that if the Board seeks to revoke the license, the owners might pay up sooner.

Super Park Meeting

MILLBURY - The next meeting of the Super Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Public welcome.

Amorello Holds Open House at District Office

GRAFTON - Senator Matthew Amorello (R-Grafton) has announced the opening of his district office at One Grafton Common, Suite 4, Grafton Center. There will be an open house on Friday, December 20, from 4-7 p.m. The office, which is staffed by volunteers, will be open Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Amorello will be at the district office on Friday and Saturday mornings, or by appointment. Extended office hours will be announced.

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Board Debates Selection Process for Police Chief

By Alex G. Belisle

SUTTON - The process of choosing a successor to Sutton Police Chief William Baker, whose resignation is effective January 2, dominated the December 10 Selectmen's Workshop. All members of the board were present.

Orchard Estates

The first item addressed was an update of the Orchard Estates road construction by Town Administrator Dexter Blois. At the December 3 meeting, the board voted to allow Sutton Valley Corp. to continue the installation of water and sewer lines and to repair and make passable the surrounding roads (Hartness, Leland Hill, and McLellan). The board based their reluctant approval on appeals from the developer who stated that this phase of the project could be completed by December 14 if the weather cooperated, from appeals of sub-contractors who stated that they needed the work in this sluggish economy, and from area residents who hoped that deplorable road conditions would be corrected for the winter.

"There's no way the construction's going to be finished by Saturday (December 14)," said Blois. He then listed the construction left to be completed and told the board that Highway Surveyor Ray Smith has contacted the asphalt manufacturers. He said the Granger-Lynch plant will be closed December 13 and a plant in Rhode Island will close December 20. The contractor will have to make additional repairs with cold patch though Blois admitted that that would have to be done anyway.

Blois told the board that of the nine days Valley Corp. had to work on the project since their approval, two days were lost to weather and one day to the fact that OSHA shut down construction. He was not sure of the reason(s) for the OSHA shutdown.

Blois said that he, Ray Smith, and Town Engineer Dick Wharton have been giving Valley Corp. permission to operate two days at a time. "We've been keeping a good handle on it (the construction)," he said. He added that he thought that the project could not be completed before Christmas.

Selectwoman Mary K Connor suggested giving Blois authority to grant extensions on a day-to-day basis after the December 14 date.

Selectman Mike Chizy criticized the condition of Leland Hill Road which, he said, was almost impassable.

Board member Rick Labonte voiced similar displeasure, saying that he was so dissatisfied with the conditions of the road that he called project engineer Lester Valente to lodge complaints. He added that he received several complaints from residents who, he said, have been yelled at by subcontractors.

Selectman Wally Johnson suggested that construction be stopped on December 14 and that the contractor be allowed a few days to correct the condition of the roads.

Blois suggested that the contractor be made to clean up the roads immediately and, only after they are corrected, be allowed to continue on one project at a time, weather permitting.

On a 3-2 vote, with Johnson, Connor and Labonte in favor, the board authorized Blois in consultation with Smith and Wharton, to allow the contractor to continue after existing road conditions were corrected.

Cafeteria Plan

At the December 3 meeting, selectmen instructed Blois to write to the school committee asking if they had objections to offering the Cafeteria Plan to school employees. At that meeting, Labonte said he did not want to override the authority of the School Committee if they felt the Plan was a negotiable item.

Correspondence from Glen Anderson, Chairman of the School Committee, indicates that the Committee approves of including school employees in the plan.

Connor reiterated her position that it was wrong to differentiate among town employees and that all eligible employees should be allowed to participate.

Labonte said he was satisfied that the school committee had no objection to including school employees in the plan.

Chizy said he still feels the plan is a negotiable item and could be used in the bargaining process.

Blois said that the letter from the school committee indicated that the members of the committee felt that the

Turn to SUTTON on Page 6

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selectmen should have involved them before the implementation of the plan.

He added, however, "It isn't serving any service, at this point, not to implement it for everybody." Blois said the Town seldom gets an issue it can use in negotiating that does not cost the town anything.

The board voted 4-1 on Connor's motion, Chizy opposed, to include all town employees in the Plan.

Baker Replacement

The board began a discussion of a draft policy submitted by Blois for the position of police chief.

Police Chief William Baker came before the board and recommended that Lieutenant John Annis be appointed his successor. He told the board that it was his intention when taking the position to implement training goals for the department which would have prepared members to "be better able to take my place." He added that because of his premature departure, he has not had time to implement his training goals.

(Baker has accepted a position as executive director of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council beginning January 2. He has served as Sutton's Police Chief for 1 1/2 years.)

In his comments to the board, Baker said he believes that the educational and training goals of the department are valid as is the selectmen's selection process through which he was chosen Sutton's police chief. He explained to the board that because of his early departure, members of the police department have not had an opportunity to meet the educational criterion as set forth in the town's charter under, "Policy: Qualifications for Chief of Police."

Baker said that in spite of his feelings about the process and the educational goals, he strongly believes that Annis should be appointed to replace him. "John Annis has served me faithfully, and I believe he's fully capable of doing the job," he said. Baker also said that other members of the department can upgrade their qualifications to meet the criteria for selection of chief by the time Annis retires.

Baker said that there would be no losers in appointing Annis Chief. "My recommendation is based on my feeling that John (Annis) can do the job," he said.

Baker reported that, in the last two years, two sergeants have attended the Law Enforcement Management program at Babson College, which was one of his suggestions. As yet, no officer has had an opportunity to attend the FBI academy - his second suggestion.

All of the selectmen said they thought highly of Baker's recommendation to appoint Annis his successor.

Chizy remarked that he was pleased to hear that Baker thought well of the selection process and said he would consider his recommendation that Annis succeed him.

"The process is good;" Johnson said, "there's no question about that. I would strongly hope that this time around now, that we could take this process we have, temporarily put it on the back burner, (and) make an appointment within our department."

Johnson added that appointing Annis Chief will give other members of the department "plenty of time to go out and study so they can fulfill whatever process we have the next time around. They know it's there for them, if we start now and show them it's there for them. But if we start going outside again and going through this whole program again, and we're going to get a person in here that meets all these qualifications, we're going to get a great guy - nine times out of ten - but we're not doing a thing for these people who have served us faithfully. And this great guy we might get may do a good job within the department, but if he's this good and meets all these requirements, there's going to be the same thing happen to him, most likely, that has happened to you, Chief Baker. It comes down to this, good people are in demand, but if we have somebody within our department that can do this job and serve the town without any problems, as you are telling us, I can't see why we don't go ahead and make an appointment."

Johnson added that if Annis is appointed, his performance would be reviewed during a probationary period. He went on to restate that other members of the department would have an opportunity "to do their thing and be ready for the next time it (the selection of a new chief) comes around and keep the job where it belongs. I strongly feel that it's high time we gave this shot to some of the boys over there. They've worked hard for it; they've stayed here; they haven't roamed all over; they haven't applied all over for jobs; they've stayed in Sutton. They're very happy with us."

Connor followed Johnson's comments saying that she felt it was the responsibility of the board to set the parameters of the appointment for Blois and to give him direction. (Blois has the authority, under the Town's Charter, to appoint the police chief.) She said that the board, in the past, did consider education important but also felt fairness was important and felt the board should use common sense by giving weight to community ties. She noted that the board inserted a paragraph on a unanimous vote when the selection process was approved several years ago that indicated that education was not everything but that experience and knowledge of the Town can be an advantage.

"Now it's time to be fair," Connor said, "and to use some common sense. There's a difference between finding the most qualified person on paper and finding the best person for the job at this time." She added that she felt the best person for the position at this time was Annis. She also said the town should go through the process and advertise the position.

Labonte said Baker's recommendation carried a lot of weight with him, and if Annis was nominated he would have his support.

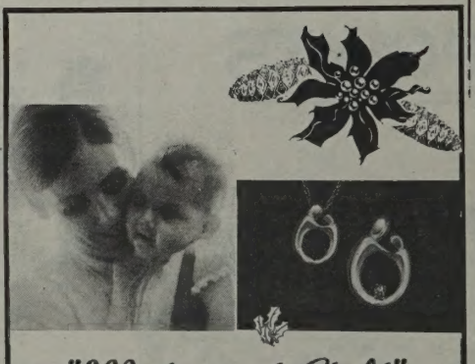
Blois, when asked to comment, told the board that he has made no judgments and had confidence that the selection process would produce the best candidate for the position. "I still feel my job is to be as neutral as possible; to weigh all the facts concerned, the board's, the department's, and the people's concerns. If it happens to be John Annis (selected), so be it," he said.

Strieby said that he was pleased both with Baker's recommendation and with his comments about the selection process.

He also said he would support Blois in his approach to filling the position. He asked that Baker submit his comments on education standards in writing so that if the board considers appointing another chief in the future, they would be able to say that the board and the chief recognized the necessity of standards after giving everyone in the department an opportunity to meet those standards.

Labonte said he would hope that if the board appoints Annis, members of the department would know the feelings of the board with respect to those standards and that "three to five years from now it would not be an issue."

Turn to SUTTON on Page 9



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HERE . . . THERE . . . EVERYWHERE

Bits 'n Pieces

. . . Joe Morin

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, Friends! Time do fly, doesn't it? Another year's end; wishes to be extended for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! That these wishes become a reality is everybody's dream. Let's hope and pray that the New Year, 1992, will be good for all people, here and abroad!

***

A LITTLE GIRL had been engrossed in drawing a picture of the Nativity Scene and finally took it to her father for his approval. "Why, it's excellent, Susan," he said. "But why is one of St. Joseph's legs so much longer than the other?"

"Oh, he's stamping his foot," she explained. "He wanted a girl." Good grief!

***

Christmas 1991 - Is it that time of year already? Time to wish one another a Merry Christmas, knowing that there is still a lot of suffering, hunger, fighting going on in the world. We'll wish one another a Happy New Year, hoping that the new year will be better than the past, for a lot of people. We'll be attending Christmas Eve Mass and services in the church of our choice, celebrating His birthday! We'll all be experiencing the warmth of families getting together for the holidays. We'll also think of those family members and friends who will not be with us this year to join in the celebration; but they are fortunate for they are with Him. Oh, what a gathering, seeing Him face to face.

After Christmas, will we revert back to our long faces, lose the spirit of the holidays? Will all those wishes of peace and happiness be just words, or will they mean something? Will we forget the unfortunates with whom we shared gifts? Will we only remember them this year? What about the upcoming year? The angels, way back when, wished on us, "Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will." Is that "good will" still prevalent today in us, our homes, our country, our world? Ah, Christmas, 1991! Gesu, Bambino! That we may experience Your warmth, Your love, Your kindness. Happy Birthday little one. Adeste, Fideles.

***

DID YOU KNOW...that it's illegal to name your pig "Napoleon" in France, where the pint-sized Emperor is still a national hero?...that taking the Lord's name in vain in Greece is punishable by up to two years in the clink?...that Belgian children can be fined for swearing at anyone over 50?...that a pat on the back develops character in children if given young enough, often enough, and low enough?

A MESSAGE...A SONG...AND LOVE...*There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to give.* **NO ONE** *else can speak my message or sing my song or offer my act of love. These have been entrusted only to me.* **ACCORDING** *to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered only to a few, or to all the people in a small town, or to all the people in a large city, or even to all the people in the whole world. It all depends on God's unique plan for each unique person.*

So, from my heart I want to say this to you: Please believe that you have an important message to deliver, you have a beautiful song to sing, and a unique act of love to warm this world and to brighten its darkness.

AND when the final history of this world is written, your message, your song, and your love, will be recorded gratefully and forever. - Fr. J. Power, s.j.

DID YOU KNOW...that to enhance the appeal of Christianity among the pagans and to unify the various customs and rituals throughout the Christian world, Roman Bishop Libirius in 354 chose December 25 as the date for the birth of Jesus? No real evidence existed then to support his choice and little basis exists for it today. In fact, according to various events referred to in the Bible, modern historians and theologians now believe that Jesus was probably born, now get this, in October or November. Some authorities place the date as early as, now get this one, in July! How about that? Now you know!

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT that lady from Connecticut way who went to the bank to draw out $750 to buy presents for her family? Well, let me tell you. She looked for a safe place to stash it while she went food shopping. She looked all over the house and finally decided to stash it in the oven. When she came home from shopping, she wanted to bake some muffins. She prepared the batter and, yupp, put it in the oven. After a few minutes, the aroma of blueberry muffins and "burnt dough" permeated the house. Oh, by the way, there were enough serial numbers left on the burnt dough so she was able to exchange the money. See, ya never know!

AND HOW about those salad bars in the market? Personally, I wouldn't go near them after what I observed one day. A couple of young gals, in their teens, leaning on the bar, one turned around and plucked a tomato with her hands and began chewing on it. People walking by, coughing and sneezing, very unsanitary to say the least!

***

LOOKING at his will, the man said to his attorney, "I guess this makes my son and I sort of like football players."

"How's that," the lawyer asked.

"Well," the man replied, "until I kick off, he doesn't receive."

***

IS CANONIZATION the next step for Magic Johnson? What with all the hullabaloo, you'd think he just climbed Mt. Everest in no time flat. C'mon, give me a break!

THE PATRIOTS lose four straight, they win one, everybody's excited. Blah! I'm still rootin' for the Red Sox. Wait 'til next year! Ha! That's a laugh!

YOU KNOW, when you think of it, those Bozos in Washington are working for us, they're our servants, they are told what to do! Not they, telling us what's good for us, right? **SINGLETARY AVE**. is looking great since they fixed it up - 'bout time! **ANYBODY** taking bets on when that "fallen" tree will be removed at the corner of Singletary and Boston Road? **IS THERE** any sound reason for the price of gas to be as high as it is? Somebody's making big bucks, somewhere! **DON'T** forget that glass of wine with your meals; it counteracts cholesterol in your system...that's what they say!

Turn to MORIN on Page 8

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Season's Greetings

To you, our valued customers, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a blessed and happy new year, too.

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MORIN from page 7

DO YOU REALIZE there are more kids around today with guns in their possession than they have fathers?

DO YOU REALIZE that there are more blue collar workers now applying for food stamps than ever before?

DO YOU REALIZE that there is a War on Drugs but we're losing the battle? The recipients are getting younger and younger!

DO YOU REALIZE that we're all getting older and there isn't a damn thing ya can do about it? Ha-ha!

***

SAD SIGHT INDEED - CNN carried a story about a Christmas train that passes through Appalachian counties once a year. People on the train throw out cookies, candies, toys, books, and Christmas presents to the less fortunate. A sad sight to see, indeed, youngsters, the elderly, running down the tracks in hopes of catching a gift for the holidays. An older woman with a shopping bag was being held up toward the people throwing out the goodies, hoping some would land in her bag. It resembled a farmer throwing out hay to the cows for feeding. It just didn't look right. It's a recession up here; depression down there in Appalachia. And what are the politicians doing about it? That this is allowed to happen in this country is shameful, depressing. It's going to be a sad, uneventful Christmas for those good people down there. George! Did you happen to see that clip on CNN? C'mon out of your glass cage and experience the poverty, misery that's going on!

DEAR LORD, we pray this Christmas for all hearts everywhere. For some are sad, and some are glad, and some are filled with care. To every heart give courage, take all their fears away. Be very near to everyone this Blessed Christmas Day!

THE BEAUTY and the magic of Christmas can be found everywhere. Carolers with their sweet voices upon a frosted air. Sleigh bells jingle across hills and dale, the postman delivering the Christmas mail. Friends dropping by, the laughter so real. A candle-lit church, aglow in the night. Still believing the Christmas Star still shines at night. O! Jesu! Bambino! Happy Birthday!

***

WONDERING OUT LOUD! When was the last time you spotted a Christmas creche set out in a store? I mean, a big department store like Caldors and Lechmere. We all know what Christmas is all about, don't we? I mean these guys, these stores are making a bundle on Christmas. You'd think they would, on the occasion of His birthday, set up some kind of Christmas creche, scene, whatever. Separation of store and church? Ridiculous! C'mon now. If it wasn't for Christmas, you guys would fold up!

IT'S TIME NOW, my friends, to say Adieu for awhile, but before we do we certainly would take this opportunity to wish you all the best there is and could be during this holiday season. Another year ending, a New Year to begin. We wish for you all: Joy, Peace of Heart and Mind, Success in all that you do, Health to you and yours, Peace within your families. See you all next year.

Merry Christmas,

Joseph

From My Window on Farnsworth Court

By "Pastor Rae" Cameron

There are so many nice things to write about at Christmas time that it is hard to settle for just one. The joy of giving, both to our family and friends, but also those in great need. At our local minister's meeting, we discussed that tremendous need today that has almost tripled from last year, and then learned of the exciting things churches and other organizations are doing to try and meet this need.

It was pointed out that one of the failures of our American way of celebrating Christmas is that Advent is the season of preparation, and then comes the twelve days of Christmas when the real celebration of the Birth of the Lord Jesus should take place. I don't see that this will change any in the foreseeable future.

One of the things I like best about this Christmas season, is the Christmas cards. We just sent out over 125 of them to many of our relatives and friends who have meant so much to us over the years, but usually only this time of year do we correspond at all. It is wonderful to hear from them and to send them greetings.

One Christmas Sunday, my text was the last chapter of the Book of Romans. I had been expounding on this great book and wasn't going to stop doing so even for Christmas. What I discovered was that in this chapter, Paul brings greetings to and from many different Christians. In the sermon, I pointed out that the wonder of Christmas and of our Christianity is that it brings us into person relationship. First and foremost, into a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and then our own interpersonal relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The best of the Christmas season to all of you and yours. The Lord richly bless you all, real good. Amen.

Women's Bowling League

Kathy Marble rolled a 314 for the High Triple, strings of 79-110-125. Her 125 was also the high single. Second high, a 289, was rolled by Pat Gaspar and Charlotte Gabree. Pat's strings were 88-95-106 and Charlotte's, 90-83-116. Third high was rolled by Becky Rushton, a 279, strings of 101-90-82.

Rolling 100 and over were: Kathy Marble, 125-110; Charlotte Gabree, 116; Pat Gaspar, 106; Becky Rushton, 101; Irma Healey, 102; and Gail Higginbottom, 100.

TEAM STANDINGS	WON	LOST
Impatients	70	34
Pansies	68	36
Daffy-dills	51	53
Mums	42	62
Phlox	40	64
Lillies	37	67

HIGH AVERAGE
Pat Gaspar 101.7
Charlotte Gabree 95.9
Becky Rushton 95.9

HIGH SINGLE
Pat Gaspar 146
Kathy Marble 141
Charlotte Gabree 123

TOP TEN BOWLERS
Pat Gaspar 101.7
Charlotte Gabree 95.9
Becky Rushton 95.9
Kathy Marble 95.5
Joan DeSantis 95.4
Marge McArdle 92.0
Gail Higginbottom 91.2
Ellen Bouvier 90.1
Mary Jo Boire 88.6
Debby Boire 88.1

HIGH TRIPLE
Pat Gaspar 355
Kathy Marble 336
Charlotte Gabree 331

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SUTTON from Page 6

Baker said there should be no question in the minds of the officers that he believes education and training is important. He recalled that, when he was hired, he said that education does not make the man, that there may be better policemen or chiefs than he, but that police work is complex enough that education and training can do nothing but enhance skills. "So, I will certainly commit my commitment to education and training in writing." Baker added that it appears he is playing both sides, namely his support for training and education and his recommendation that training and education not be considered in this appointment.

"It seems like we're dancing around the issue," Connor said. While acknowledging that Blois has the responsibility to appoint, she said, "I think we should emphasize that we are hopeful that someone within the department should be appointed."

Strieby then asked Baker if his position as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Training Council was a patronage position.

Baker began responding and Blois interrupted, saying that the position was not "classical patronage" but it was political and, as the political hierarchy changes, Baker could lose his position on the Training Council.

Johnson acknowledged that it was Blois's responsibility to make the appointment with the approval of the board, "but Dexter sure knows how this board feels; he knows how his chief feels; I only hope that Dexter will consider what he's heard here tonight when he makes that appointment. He can put this stuff on the back burner for the time being and get a new chief appointed and carry on. I don't want to go through what we did a year and a half ago and two years ago." (Johnson was referring to the turmoil that was caused during the first selection process that resulted in the appointment of Alfred Shaw, his dismissal by Blois with the approval of the board, and the subsequent appointment of Baker.)

Johnson asked if he could move "to put it on the back burner until the probationary period is through?"

"It is Dexter's job to appoint the chief with the blessing of the board. From what Dexter has heard tonight, he has our feelings, and I think it would save a lot, a lot of work and a lot of nonsense," Johnson said.

Connor said the board voted a paragraph during the last selection process to be added to the selection process policy. She said the paragraph stated clearly "that we wanted to promote from within if possible." She went on to say that the only thing in the selection criteria that would make that difficult was the requirement that the chief take three courses. She said that it was clear that the board wanted to promote from within the department.

Dexter advised that the process should be followed and not changed at this point. Both he and Baker said the policy is good, and the board adopted the policy after much study. He said nothing had to be changed for the process to proceed. "If by chance," he said, "after six months from now there is an issue in the policy, the board has the authority to waive the policy."

Connor disagreed, saying waiving the residency requirement for Baker created a lot of trouble after the fact.

Blois countered that he did not think that waiver caused a problem and waiving the educational policy after the fact would not cause a problem either. He asked that the policy be allowed to proceed. "My job is to find the best candidate, and if the best candidate happens to have to need a waiver, then that's the board's prerogative to consider."

"How are you going to find the best candidate?" Connor asked.

Blois said he could not tell who would be the best candidate without going through the process, the broadest outline of which Blois submitted to the selectmen.

Connor took issue with that, saying, "I think it's our obligation to set the parameters."

"But it's not your obligation to set down the procedure," Blois responded. He said the policy sets the standard as to what kind of candidate the town is looking for and that includes members within the department.

"The worse thing we could do is to change the policy now," Labonte said. "If we start changing the policy, it almost looks like we're trying to fine tune (the policy) to head in a certain direction."

Connor returned, saying, "What Baker was saying was in line with what Wally was proposing."

"Dexter knows how we feel; he's going to consider what we want. Leave it alone and put it on the back burner as far as the board is concerned," Johnson said.

Chizy noted that the town has a policy in place and said Blois will follow it and come out with a good candidate. "I think he'll take serious consideration of what we feel. I don't think every time we get a police chief, we change or let go of the policy. I think we can work very well in the policy." Chizy also felt that the procedure as outlined by Blois would take too long.

Blois said the draft was just an outline and that it was the maximum time required and could be shortened.

"It would take me five minutes," Johnson said.

Connor said she felt that the appointment process should be completed by February 1.

Blois said he would conduct the exercises that were conducted by the Assessment Center during the last selection process himself and that it would not cost the town any

Turn to SUTTON on Page 12

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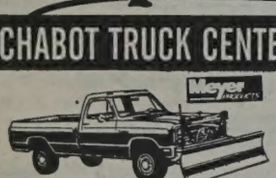

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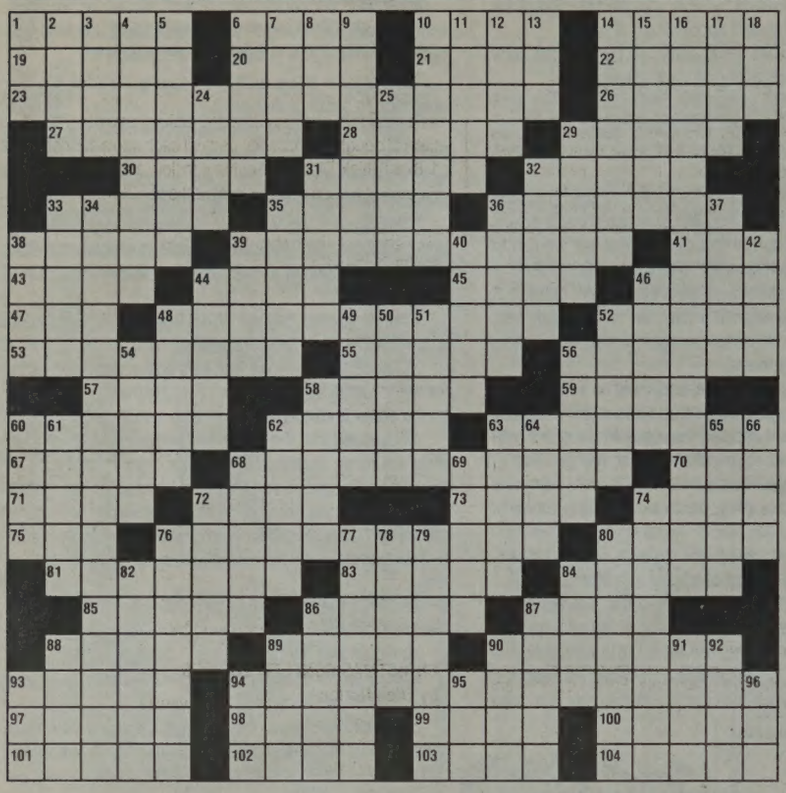
Crossword Puzzle



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By Frances Hansen

ACROSS

1 Violinist Stern
6 Distort
10 October birthstone
14 Desist
19 Bay in SW Maine
20 Sharif or Khayyam
21 Descartes or Coty
22 — ease
23 Christmas gift for Miss Muffet?
26 Flaring outward
27 Leaves the track
28 Urbane
29 Bat the eyes
30 In a —: on the spot
31 Mr. Dooley's creator
32 Puppeteer Bil
33 Yoga position
35 Clocked
36 Ricardo Montalban's TV island
38 Ham it up
39 Gift for Old King Cole?
41 Male swan
43 Theatrical "Auntie"
44 Belligerent god
45 Big name in publishing
46 Ship's spoor?
47 Choler
48 Gift for Mother Hubbard?
52 Kind of tiger
53 "The — of Pompeii"
55 Not as prevalent
56 Most wily
57 Pupil's place?
58 Travel by car
59 "For — jolly good fellow..."
60 A living Dahl
62 Anglo-Irish author Elizabeth
63 Lady flier
67 "I — Parade"
68 Gift for Mrs. Sprat?
70 Salt
71 Not new
72 Venus de Milo's loss
73 Came down
74 Fine cotton
75 "Bei — Bist Du Schoen"
76 Gift for the old woman in a shoe?
80 Small meat pie
81 Embodiment
83 Related on Mom's side
84 Painter Andrea del —
85 Stewpots
86 Loony
87 Aqua —
88 — once: suddenly
89 Court decree
90 Barbara Cartland's forte
93 E.T., for one
94 Gift for Dr. Foster?
97 "Where —": action center
98 "The fat — the fire"
99 Major musical work
100 Actress Palmer of "De Sade"
101 Conductor Zubin
102 Yearn
103 Ditto
104 Picasso's last stand?

DOWN

1 Here, in Le Havre
2 True grit
3 African fox
4 Irritate
5 Colombian export
6 Word for wide or series
7 Singer Ed
8 Seance sound
9 Stanley to Livingstone: "...I —"
10 Disneyworld locale
11 Vex
12 Green Gables girl
13 Tennis cry
14 "— Lindo" popular Spanish song
15 "— Madigan," 1967 film
16 Gift for contrary Mary?
17 Can. province
18 Soissons season
24 Songbird Turner
25 Half-moon, old style
29 Judicial seating
31 Toper
32 Famed family of German organists
33 Soprano Lucine
34 Gift for Hugo's Bishop?
35 Model-actress Cheryl
36 Polisher
37 Oxen don't laugh at these
38 Jannings or Ludwig
39 Say grace
40 Boo-boo
42 Memorable Lahr
44 Demean
46 Belt area
48 "L'elisir d'amore" heroine
49 Disapproving look
50 Kind of breath
51 Maine university town
52 Implore
54 Out on a limb
56 Unlucky bettor's loss
58 Drab
60 Astringent
61 Role for Sharon Gless
62 Explosive French dessert?
63 Shaded walk
64 Heraldic fur
65 "— be married within...": Dryden
66 Candid camera shot?
68 Hyde Park baby carriages
69 Like some meats
72 A full house, in poker
74 Threatened feeling
76 Peachtree street's city
77 Sealing with heat
78 Bury
79 Body art
80 Biblical allegory
82 "— my head.": Dickens
84 Kind of pump
86 The "gray cells"
87 Savoir-faire
88 "Der —": Adenauer
89 Lhasa — Tibetan dog
90 Liquor for a baba
91 Mountain passes
92 Stendhal's "Le Rouge — Noir"
93 Intention
94 Feel poorly
95 "The Conning Tower" monogram
96 Part of R.S.V.P.

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

A	L	U	M		T	A	P	I	S		V	E	R	A		C	A	R	E	T
L	O	C	I		O	X	I	D	E		I	D	O	L		A	C	A	S	E
B	O	L	L	B	O	L	E	A	N	D	B	O	W	L		T	H	Y	M	E
	S	A	L	U	T	E	S		D	O	R	M	S		W	E	A	S	E	L
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C	R	E	T	E		T	W	O	T	O	O	A	N	D	T	O		Z	O	E
A	R	A		D	E	R	E	K			R	I	I	S		L	E	T	S	
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		D	O	L	L	Y		S	A	S	S		S	A	R	D				
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A	B	E	A	M		W	E	I	G	H	W	A	Y	A	N	D	W	H	E	Y
L	I	E	G	E		A	S	S	N		N	Y	C	T	I		E	E	R	O
A	S	S	E	T		R	T	E	S		S	N	O	O	P		D	E	E	M

Save those Labels!

MILLBURY - Students at Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School are still collecting labels from Campbell Soup products, "Apple Sales" from Scott Paper products, and "UPC" code labels from Orville Redenbacher products. Orville Redenbacher will donate ten cents in cash for every UPC code label collected from specified products. Computer hardware and software have been ordered from Campbell Soup Products and Scott Paper Company.

UPC code labels and/or labels may be deposited at the Millbury Post Office and Public Library or given to a Shaw student. If you would like to help cut and count labels, call Leah E. Devine at 752-3537. Holiday Greetings from everyone at Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School.

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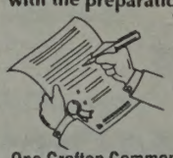

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HANDYMAN NEEDED, cash paid, call 865-3443 and leave message.

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Fidelity Co-operative Bank
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Legals Legals

Millbury Planning Board
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, the Millbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 13, 1992, at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street, Millbury, MA. Said hearing is to discuss an application by Ms. Jeanne A. Duggan for a Multi-Family Special Permit in accordance with Article 2, Section 22.21 of the Millbury Zoning By-Laws. Said location is at 9 Holman Road.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this application should appear at the time and place designated above.
Terry Burke Dotson, Chairwoman
December 12 and 19, 1991

Town of Millbury
INVITATION TO BID

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Millbury invites sealed bids for the printing, binding, and delivery of the Annual Town Report. Specifications may be obtained at the Selectmen's office, Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street, Millbury, Massachusetts.

Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M. on Friday, January 3, 1992, at which time they will be opened and publicly read in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town of Millbury to do so.
Jude T. Cristo, Chairman
Millbury Board of Selectmen

On The Shelf

By Rosemary Waltos

On the evening of December 12, the Millbury Public Library offered two holiday programs. The first was a tandem reading of the Night Before Christmas by Susan Bernard and Linda Lachance. Santa, (a.k.a. Paul Bernard), topped the evening off with gifts and well wishes to all.

While kids were in the children's room visiting with Santa, staff set up for the library's first cookie exchange in the main reading room. By seven o'clock, coffee and cake were served to cookie exchange participants while in the library's reference area sat over 40 dozen homebaked cookies of all types. For the next hour, while folks mingled and traded stories about holiday traditions and recipes back and forth, staffers and volunteers sorted, picked, assembled, arranged and wrapped cookies. By the end of the evening, everyone took home over four dozen mouth-watering delights to share with their families and friends.

[Our thanks to Rosemary Waltos for dropping off a sampling of the cookies to the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle office on Friday. Anyone who missed this year's Cookie Swap will want to mark the date down on their calendars next year. Never have we seen a more beautiful, mouth-watering display of Christmas cookies; never have we tasted so many delicious treats in one day! Ed.]

Below are some of the recipes traded among cookie exchangers that night:

GRANDMA'S COOKIES
from Jo-Ann Dunn

1 cup shortening (1/2 oleo & 1/2 Crisco)
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 t. nutmeg
4 cups flour
1 cup buttermilk (add 1T vinegar or 1T lemon juice to 1 cup sweet milk)

Cream first six ingredients together, then add dry ingredients and milk. Stir in nuts. Bake at 375 degrees for about ten minutes. Ice with your favorite frosting. Makes 7 dozen.

******

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER BALLS
from Lorraine McKenney

1 18 oz. jar of peanut butter
1 stick of oleo
1 lb. package powdered sugar
4 cups Rice Crispies
2 cups chocolate chips
1 4 oz. Hershey bar
1/2 bar paraffin wax

Mix first four ingredients in large bowl. Mixture will be crumbly and about the size of walnuts. Form into balls and refrigerate about one hour. In a double boiler, melt until smooth chocolate chips and bar with paraffin wax (put wax into pan first). Dip balls into chocolate and nuts. Set on wax paper to harden. Makes about five to six dozen.

******

WALNUT LOGS
from Carolina Pescheta

1 cup margarine
1/2 cup confectionery sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
1 3/4 cups flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup nuts

Cream margarine and sugar, then add vanilla. Mix flour and salt with creamed mixture. Stir in nuts. Make ball of dough about the size of a walnut and roll each ball into approximately a one inch log. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 minutes. Makes five dozen.

******

BETTY'S CUTOUT COOKIES
from Betty Kotzen

1 cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
1 egg
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla
2 3/4 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg and vanilla, mixing well. Add flour one cup at a time and baking powder. Form two balls of dough (do not chill) and roll each into a 12 inch circle 1/8 inch thick. Dip cookie cutter into flour and cut into shapes. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 for six minutes.

******

DECORATED SHORTBREAD CUTOUTS
by Doris Blondin

3/4 cup butter or margarine (softened)
1/4 cup sugar
2 cups self-rising flour
Green or red sprinkles
Chocolate candy melts

Cream butter and sugar. Stir in flour and mix dough with hands until smooth. Wrap dough airtight and chill well. Divide dough in four portions. On lightly floured surface, roll out each portion to about 1/4 inch thick. With cookie cutters, cut out shapes. Place about one inch apart on a greased cookie sheet and press sprinkles into shapes. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Cool about one hour on racks. Melt chocolate candy melts. Lightly dip the bottom of cookies into chocolate. Let harden by placing chocolate side of cookie onto cookie sheet. Makes 24 cookies.

******

CHRISTMAS CONFETTI COOKIES
by Ellen Norton

1 cup sugar
1/3 cup brown sugar
1 cup margarine
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 1/3 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
1/3 cup nuts
1 cup green and red cherries or gum drops cut into fine pieces

Cream first five ingredients. Add flour, salt, and baking soda and mix. Stir in nuts. Decorate with cherries or gum drops. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Makes 5-6 dozen.

The library thanks all our cookie exchange bakers for their cookies and recipes and for making our first cookie exchange such a success. Also, thank you to Linda Lachance and Susan and Paul Bernard for delighting children and their families in our special 1991 holiday program.

Children visit with Santa following a tandem reading of *The Night Before Christmas* by Susan Bernard and Linda Lachance.

CHRONICLE photos by Alexander A. Bellsie

Participating in the Library's Cookie Exchange were: (front row l-r) Irene Army, Joanne Dunn, Lorraine McKenney, Betty Kotzen, and Ellen Norton; rear (l-r) Rosemary Waltos, Carolina Pescheta, Shirley Gaboriault, Tony Army, and Elaine Loehmann

SUTTON from page 9

money. He also added that no one would know who the members of the assessment panel were before the exercise.

"This is so frustrating," Connor said. "It is clear to every person in town; it is common sense; it is fair; it is right to appoint John Annis. It is within our right as the board of selectmen to direct you to find the best qualified candidate within the department." She said that her conversations with people who, during the last selection process, spoke in favor of going outside of the department to choose a chief, "the most outspoken people have come up to me and said, 'It's time for John Annis,' and it's clear to me, and I don't know why we are going through this, and why we are putting the town through this."

"What in the world is wrong with you and the board of selectmen, who has to confirm your appointment, from sitting down and coming up with a reasonable solution and the man to do the job?" Johnson asked Blois. "What's wrong with you listening to our input in the beginning?" he asked.

"I've got a little bit of common sense; you're not giving me credit for common sense," Blois responded.

Strieby asked Blois if the board would be violating any law if they did not at least go through a posting.

"There wouldn't be a violation if you make the appointment right now," Johnson interrupted.

Strieby asked if it was the feeling of the board to throw the procedure out as it stands.

Johnson said, "Wait a minute. I haven't got an answer to my question. Would it be in order for me to make a motion to put that on the back burner temporarily?"

Strieby told him that he could make any motion he wanted.

Johnson so moved.

Labonte asked, "By putting on the back burner, you mean eliminate the policy?"

"No, no," answered Johnson. "Put it on the back burner, because in the event that John Annis is appointed, there's no need of coming up with all this and going through all this protocol until he has served his probationary period."

"Then why put it on the back burner? What are you accomplishing by putting it on the back burner? Leave it in place," Blois responded.

Labonte added that he feels that John Annis is a quality person who, after his year and a half tutelage under Baker, can compete as well as anyone for the position. "To throw that policy out of the window would be a mistake," he concluded.

"I'm not throwing it out the window," Johnson responded. "But what if he doesn't appoint John Annis?"

"Deal with that when the time comes, Wally. Don't worry about that now," Blois answered.

Chizy asked if Annis is selected and retires in three years, will the board again place the policy on the back burner when another chief has to be selected.

Johnson's motion to defer the selection process was defeated on a 3-2 vote with Johnson and Connor voting for it and Chizy, Strieby, and Labonte voting to keep the policy as it stands.

MCU HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Millbury Credit Union will close for **Christmas** at 1 p.m. December 24, and reopen at 10 a.m. on December 26.

For **New Year's**, MCU will close at 5 p.m. December 31, and reopen at 10 a.m. on January 2.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MON. THROUGH THURS.–10 AM-5 PM
FRI.–10 AM-7 PM—SAT.-9 AM-12 NOON

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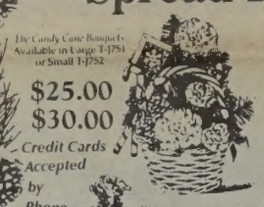
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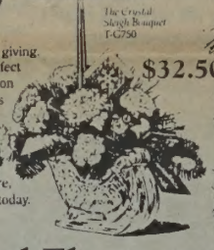
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Schwepps Mixers 1Lt.....2/$1.39 + dep.

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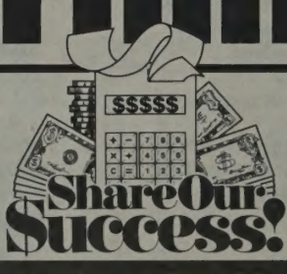

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